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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO. [redacted]

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

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SUBJECT Sokolov (Falknov) Chemical Plant

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[redacted]

The Sokolov Chemical Plant is assigned to the Czechoslovakian Chemical Plant, National Enterprise, and is a subsidiary plant of the Association for Chemical and Metallurgical Production, National Enterprise, in Prague. It is east of Sokolov (Falknov, 1 51/P 58), south of the Ohre River. (See Annex)

1. Labor Force

About 800 workmen, about 120 officials. Work is done in three eight-hour shifts. The electrochemical department has a two-shift schedule of 12 hours each. The worker's off-duty period is 24 hours after each shift.

2. Plant Departments

Electrochemical department

Department for technical gases

Department for formic acid

Lime kiln department

Department for nitrogen fertilizer

Carbide department

Cyanide department (not in operation)

Ferro-chromium department (recently put into operation)

Power station with boiler house

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Main depot

Machine shop

3. Production Installations

Electrochemical department:

a. Chlorate Department: 6 pressure pumps, 12 mixing vessels, 80 electroplating tubs, 1 drying installation.

b. Hydrogen-Peroxide Department: 40 electroplating tubs, 3 aggregates, 40 distillation apparatuses including 28 lead distillation apparatuses, 2 tubs of 72 gallons each for 3-percent H_2O_2 solution, 2 tubs for 10-percent H_2O_2 solution, 1 tub for 30-percent solution ("perhydrol"), 2 pneumatic pumps, 2 steam suction pumps.

c. Borax Department: 4 lye-troughs with stirring and pumping installations, drying installations for perborate and borax.

d. Carbide Department with 10 kilns.

4. Production

Chlorate of potash, sodium chlorate, hydrogen-peroxide, borax, perborate, formic acid, oxygen, "Dissous" gas, calcium carbide, burnt lime, nitrogen lime, nitrogen fertilizer, ferro-chromium.

5. Almost all raw materials come from the other inland plants of the National Enterprise Association for Chemical and Metallurgical Products, mainly from the plants in Aussig on the Elbe River, Hruschau, Rednice, Neratovice and Westemitz.

6. These indications were mostly confirmed/ b
Second source with the following additional statements:

a. Work Force:

About 950 men in May 1949. This figure includes 150 to 180 Germans, mainly experts already employed in this plant in wartime. The work force numbered 1,200 men at the beginning of 1948. Workmen inducted for military service could hardly be replaced.

b. Production

Labor shortage forced a change from the three-shift to the two-shift schedule in January 1949. One shift production comprised the following amounts:

18,000 to 20,000 kg of carbide

8,000 kg of nitrogen

20 to 25 gallons of glycerine

4,000 gallons of miscellaneous acids (sulphuric, nitric, phosphorous, hydrocyanic, hydrochloric, and formic acids)

4,700 to 5,300 gallons of "vacuum" acid

After the Communist regime started in February 1948 production declined almost 50 percent. Engineers and chemists were constantly being replaced.

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a. The Chemical Plant in Sokolov (formerly Falkenau/Falknov), established during World War I, was the only electro-thermic plant for the production of carbide, nitrogen of lime and ferro silicon at the beginning of the first republican period of Czechoslovakia. For strategic reasons a twin plant was established in Handlova (Q 49/C 46) in the thirties. A synthetic department for formic acid, oxalic acid and perborate was simultaneously established in the Falkenau Plant.

b. The following monthly capacity figures of the Falkenau Plant were indicated by other sources:

Calcium carbide	1,500 tons	(including the output of the Handlova Plant)
Silicic carbide	500 tons	(including the output of the Handlova Plant)
Nitrogen of lime	2,500 tons	
Formic acid (85, 90, 95 percent technically pure)	100 tons	
chemically pure	50 tons	
Oxalic acid	100 tons	

c. The Sokolov Plant, until 1 July 1949 a branch of the National Enterprise Association for Chemical and Metallurgical Production in Prague, has been made an independent national enterprise under the designation Sokolov Chemical Plant, National Enterprise in Sokolov.

1 Annex: Sokolov Chemical Plant

CENTRAL IN TELLIGENCE AGENCY [redacted]
1 / Annex 1

Legend to Annex

1. Chlorate depot
2. Carpentry Shop
3. Building department
4. Cyanide department
5. Formic acid department
6. Office building
7. Depot
8. Chlorate department
9. Hydrogen-peroxide department
10. Borax and perborate department
11. Department for technical gases
12. Nitrogen lime department
13. Carbide department
14. Lime department
15. Power station and boiler house
16. Main depot
17. Machine shop
18. Narrow-gauge railroad line
19. Spur track to the Cheb-Karlovy-Vary railroad line